



St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

Committed to 'Churches Together in England'

www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.co.uk

Fir Tree Grove, Carshalton, SM5 4NG

Parochial Administrator: Fr Anthony Uche, JCD

Sunday Masses: 6.00pm (Sat), 9am & 11am

Tel: 0208 669 6483

Weekday Masses: 9.30am (& 9.30am Sat)

Mobile: 0737 635 0370

Holy Days of Obligation: 9.30am & 7.30pm

Email: carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 10.30-11.00am & 5.15 - 5.45pm & at call

A warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors



26th March 2023 [Cycle A Year 1]

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14, | Psalm 129

Romans 8:8-11 | John 11:1-45



John 11, 1-45

Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 24	9.30am	Mary & Mary Reilly TG
Saturday 25	8am	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
Annunciation	9.30am	John & Maryellen TG
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Tom & Rebecca Riley TG
Sunday 26	9am	Anthony & Nicole Maughon TG (FC)
5th Sunday of Lent		
[Psalm Wk 1]	11am	William Foster RIP (CC)
Monday 27	9.30am	Keyna Larvin WB
	7.30pm	Reconciliation Service
Tuesday 28	9.30am	Joel Mascarenhas WB
	6.45pm	Lenten Reflection
	7pm	Stations of the cross
Wednesday 29	9.30am	William Gaynor RIP
	6pm	Youth Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study
	7.00pm	Central Choir Practice
Thursday 30	9.30am	Maria Mascarenhas WB
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 31	9.30am	Chad Legere WB
Saturday 1	8am	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
	9.30am	Arputham, Joseph & Arullete RIP
	5.15am	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Pat & Tony Larsen RIP
Sunday 2	9am	Mrs Mathew RIP (YC)
Palm Sunday	11am	Vic Heard (CC)

FC= Folk Choir, YC= Youth Choir, CC= Central Choir,

TG= Thanksgiving, WB= Wellbeing, BT= Birthday Thanksgiving, SI= Special Intention, RIP= Rest in Peace, GP= God's Protection and PI= Private Intention

NOTE: Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration follows every weekday Mass, until 11am on Tuesday through Thursday, and until 8pm on Friday.



April 9: Easter Sunday

April 16: Divine Mercy Sunday

Prayer requests: Albie Shahpazov, Paul Ford, Michael Colairo, Richard Neal, Catherine Roberts, Paula Seradi, Maria Luisa Mapple, Sheila Sharp, Michal Pacala, Hilda Gill, Michael Rowback, Max & Isabelle Mifsud, Kristine Harvey, and Margaret Fox.

Anniversaries: Please also pray for those whose anniversaries occur this month.

As we draw near to the end of Lent, today's Gospel clearly has Jesus' passion and death in view.

That's why John gives us the detail about Lazarus' sister, Mary—that she is the one who anointed the Lord for burial (see John 12:3, 7). His disciples warn against returning to Judea; Thomas even predicts they will "die with Him" if they go back.

When Lazarus is raised, John notices the tombstone being taken away, as well as Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering—all details he later notices with Jesus' empty tomb (see John 20:1, 6, 7).

Like the blind man in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all humanity. He stands for "dead men"—for all those Jesus loves and wants to liberate from the bands of sin and death.

John even recalls the blind man in his account today (see John 11:37).

Like the man's birth in blindness, Lazarus' death is used by Jesus to reveal "the glory of God" (see John 9:3). And again like last week, Jesus' words and deeds give sight to those who believe (see John 11:40).

If we believe, we will see—that Jesus loves each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He calls us out of death and into new life.

By His Resurrection Jesus has fulfilled Ezekiel's promise in today's First Reading. He has opened the graves that we may rise, put His Spirit in us that we may live. This is the Spirit that Paul writes of in today's Epistle. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to we who were once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha does in today's Gospel—that Jesus is the resurrection and the life—even if we die, we will live.

"I have promised and I will do it," the Father assures us in the First Reading. We must trust in His word, as we sing in today's Psalm—that with Him is forgiveness and salvation.

Reflection from St Paul Centre for Biblical Theology, Steubenville, Ohio

Reconciliation Service: A Lenten Reconciliation Service will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 27th March, as we prepare spiritually to celebrate the risen Christ. It will consist of Praise and Worship, Scripture Readings and Examination of Conscience, after which there will be an opportunity for individual confession.

Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served after the Service.

New Welcome Booklet

You can find the new 'Come and Worship' booklet in the Meeting Area. Special thanks to Lisa Harris and everyone else who contributed. It gives a good overview of our Church that will be of value to new parishioners and visitors.

Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration: We offer grateful thanks to Augustina and her team from the Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration who visited and spoke at last weekend's Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. Twelve new members were recruited to our all-day Friday Adoration rota. In total we now have over 30 regular Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament. A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated this Sunday, 26 March, at 11.00. A new Adoration Committee has been formed with Serena Stenning as Chair, Barbara Fernandez as Vice-Chair and Olivier Pierrat as Secretary.

Refreshments after Mass

At present we rely very heavily on four parishioners who serve tea and coffee after Sunday morning Masses week after week. From time to time they are away or unavailable. For example, there are currently gaps on 23 April (9.00), 30 April (9.00), 7 May (11.00) and 28 May (9.00). If you would be prepared to step in and help by serving refreshments on some occasions, please contact the Parish Office. The team would also welcome donations of individually wrapped cakes and biscuits.

Love the Stranger

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a very inspiring document that articulates our Christian duty to look beyond labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life. It can be found at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger> The conclusion includes this statement: "Reflecting on the message in St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: "So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19), Pope Francis reminds us that migrants and refugees are not a problem to be solved, but sisters and brothers to be welcomed, respected, and loved."

Charities upset at UK Budget priorities

CAFOD described last week's budget in commendably sharp language as "unforgivable". There was no other word to describe spending an additional £11 billion on the military "when millions face famine in East Africa. It cannot be right for the UK to cut its aid budget despite the region suffering its worst droughts in decades."

Christian Aid also sharply criticised the budget: "Not only has the aid pot been stunted and raided by other government departments, but it has also lost its focus on tackling poverty and its causes."

Clause 10 of The Public Order Bill

Bishop John Sherrington has condemned Clause 10 of the new Public Order Bill. The clause criminalises a range of activities within a 150m perimeter of an abortion facility, otherwise known as a 'buffer zone'. The Bishop said: "Throughout this Bill's passage through Parliament, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has reiterated our concern that this proposed legislation, despite any other intent, constitutes discrimination and disproportionately affects people of faith." Commenting on what could be illegal within a 'buffer zone', he said: "These could very easily include many things that should never be criminalised such as prayer, thought, peaceful presence, consensual communication and practical support if they are deemed to influence or interfere with access to the clinic."

A film for Holy Week

'The Way' is a film starring Martin Sheen as a father who heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the "El Camino de Santiago," and decides to take the pilgrimage himself. It will be shown on Tuesday April 4th at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Ruskin Rd, Carshalton SM5 3DE.

Ruskin Community Cinema is showing this film jointly with Churches Together in Carshalton. There is no charge for admission, although donations are invited towards the cost of the film, and in support of Christian Aid.

Easter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

The HAF programme is funded by the Department for Education to provide free fun holiday-enriching and physical activities with nutritious meals for children and young people (aged Reception to Year 11) receiving benefits-related free school meals. Find out more at: <https://suttoninformationhub.org.uk/pages/HAF%C2%A0>

Nicaragua and the Catholic Church

You should be aware that recently a significant number of priests and bishops have been imprisoned or deported from Nicaragua.

The Tablet reports that Pope Francis "In one of the interviews he gave to mark the decade since his election, told the Argentine news outlet Infobea that he could only assume that President Daniel Ortega was "mentally unstable" and compared his regime to Nazi and communist dictatorships – prompting Nicaragua to suspend its already-strained diplomatic relations with the Holy See."